

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LISBON 02849 010915Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-13

/073 W

----- 000843

R 301405Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 2849

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL PRISONERS FREED

REF: 75 LISBON 7635 (DTG 241226Z DEC 75)

SUMMARY: ALL BUT 67 PORTUGUESE POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE NOW BEEN FREED. MOST OF REMAINDER WERE HIGH OFFICIALS OF FORMER REGIME'S SECRET POLICE WHOSE RELEASE WILL POSE POLITICAL PROBLEMS, BUT IS PROBABLE. END SUMMARY.

1. PRISONERS FREED: DIRECTOR OF PORTUGUESE MILITARY PRISON SYSTEM, COL. GASPAR DE MELO ANNOUNCED APRIL 28 THAT ONLY 67 PERSONS REMAINED UNDER DETENTION IN PORTUGAL ON CHARGES RELATING TO POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. 47 OF THESE, HE SAID, HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LISBON 02849 010915Z

BEEN MEMBERS OF FORMER REGIME'S POLITICAL POLICE, PIDE/DGS; OF

THESE, 40 HAD HELD RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS IN THAT ORGANIZATION. REMAINING 20 PRISONERS HE IDENTIFIED AS "DIFFICULT MILITARY CASES" AND CIVILIANS CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL USE OR POSSESSION OF WEAPONS. ALL BUT SEVEN PRISONERS, CURRENTLY UNDERGOING HOSPITAL TREATMENT, HAD BEEN CONCENTRATED IN CAXIAS FORT, OUTSIDE LISBON. OTHER MILITARY PRISON FACILITIES HAD BEEN VACATED. RELEASE OF 5 MORE CIVILIAN PRISONERS WAS ANNOUNCED APRIL 29.

2. STATUS OF EX-PIDE MEMBERS: QUERIED AS TO STATUS OF OVER 1,300 FORMER PIDE MEMBERS WHO HAD BEEN FREED SINCE ABORTIVE LEFT WING COUP LAST NOVEMBER, MELO REPLIED THAT CHARGES HAD BEEN FILED AGAINST THEM AND THAT THEY WERE AWAITING TRIAL. HE COULD NOT PREDICT WHEN TRIALS WOULD BEGIN. HE SAID THAT FORMER PIDE MEMBERS WERE REQUIRED TO REPORT WEEKLY TO LOCAL POLICE STATIONS.

3. COMMENT: AS LATE AS LAST NOVEMBER, PORTUGAL'S PRISONS CONTAINED CLOSE TO 2,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS (REFTEL). SHORTLY AFTER ABORTIVE NOV 25 COUP, PORTUGAL'S MILITARY LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCED THEY HOPED TO REDUCE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL PRISONER POPULATION TO ZERO, AND BEGAN RELEASING THOSE FOR WHOM THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO JUSTIFY FURTHER DETENTION. MELO'S COMMENTS ARE CLEAR EST INDICATION YET BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL OF DEGREE TO WHICH POLICY HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED. RELEASE OF REMAINING PIDE/DGS MEMBERS, HOWEVER, WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT FROM POLITICAL VIEWPOINT, GIVEN THEIR NOTORIETY. STILL, OUTCRY BY LEFT IS PROBABLY MORE ACCEPTABLE TO MILITARY THAN POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING TRIAL OF POLITICAL POLICE, AND FURTHER RELEASES ARE PROBABLE.
CARLUCCI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMNESTY, ARRESTS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LISBON02849
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760167-0930
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976044/aaaaachs.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 7635 (DTG 241226Z DEC 75), 76 LISBON 7635
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL PRISONERS FREED
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO
To: SECSTATE WASHDC BONN LONDON MADRID MOSCOW OPORTO PARIS PONTA DELGADA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006